

RURAL DISTRICT OF MALLING

ANNUAL REPORT

For 1947

on the

**Health of the Malling
District**



By the

**Medical Officer of Health
(Dr. N. HAY BOLTON)**

and

**Senior Sanitary Inspector
(G. F. J HOPKINS)**

ANNUAL REPORT

Public Health Officers of the Local Authority

Medical Officer of Health:

N. HAY BOLTON, M.D., CH.B., D.T.M. & H., F.R.C.S. (Edin.).

Senior Sanitary Inspector and Sanitary Surveyor:

G. F. J. HOPKINS, A.R. SAN. I., CERT. S.I.B.

Additional Sanitary Inspector:

W. C. E. KEUTENIUS, M.S.I.A., CERT. S.I.B.

(Commenced duties—3rd March, 1947)

Cleansing Officer:

A. J. WELLER.

Housing Inspector:

R. SOUTER.

Clerks:

R. M. CRIPPS.

D. R. L. GROZIER.

(Commenced duties—18th August, 1947)

TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE MALLING RURAL
DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Mr. Chairman, Miss Ayre and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to submit my fourteenth Annual Report on the health of the area for the year ended 31st December, 1947. The report has been prepared on the lines of that for 1946, as indicated in Circular 170/47 dated 31st December, 1947.

Of all the legislation relating to Public Health of recent years perhaps the National Health Act which comes into operation on the 5th July, 1948, contemplates the greatest administrative changes. Services administered by District Councils have slowly dwindled and it can be foreseen that Annual Reports for ensuing years will be in a greatly amended form.

The vital statistics show a slight decrease in the birth rate over that for the previous year whilst the death rate has increased by .83 per 1,000 population. An increase is also recorded in the maternal death rate and the infant death rate.

As regards infectious disease the area compared favourably with the country as a whole both concerning deaths and notifications. In this connection it will be observed that the incidence of measles and whooping cough was again high.

Details of the work carried out in connection with the sanitary circumstances of the area, water supply and supervision of food supplies, will be found in the report of the Senior Sanitary Inspector, etc., who, as in previous years reports separately on these matters.

SECTION A.

Area of District (in acres)	45,650
Registrar General's estimate of resident population	32,960
Average density of persons per acre	0.72
Number of inhabited houses (end 1947) according to Rate Books—computed	9,239
Average density of houses	1 per 4.9 acres
Average number of persons per house inhabited	3.56
Rateable Value	£197,015
Sum represented by a penny rate	£782

EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS.

LIVE BIRTHS—	Male	Female	TOTAL
Legitimate ...	369	340	709
Illegitimate ...	21	18	39
Total Live Births	390	358	748
Birth Rate per 1,000 estimated resident population ... ..	...	...	22.69

STILL BIRTHS—			
Legitimate ...	9	9	18
Illegitimate ...	1	—	1
Total Still Births	10	9	19
Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births			24.77

DEATHS—	
Total (Male 215, Female 194)	409
Death rate per 1,000 estimated population	12.40
Deaths from Puerperal Causes—	
Puerperal Sepsis	Nil
Other Maternal Causes	1
Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births	1.30

DEATH RATE OF INFANTS UNDER ONE YEAR OF AGE—	
Number of deaths of infants under one year of age	28
Rate—All infants per 1,000 live births ...	37.43
Legitimate infants—	
per 1,000 legitimate live births	36.67
Illegitimate infants—	
per 1,000 illegitimate live births ...	51.28
Deaths from Cancer (all ages)	38
Deaths from Measles (all ages)	Nil
Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages)	1
Deaths from Diarrhoea (under two years of age)	5

Comparative Table showing Birth Rate, Death Rate, and Infantile Mortality Rate.

Year	per 1000 estimated resident population		per 1000 total live & still births	per 1000 live births
	Live Birth Rate	Death Rate	Still Birth Rate	Death rate of infants under 1 year of age
1938	14.3	10.97	23.65	35.24
1939	14.64	11.25	20.27	40.18
1940	14.32	10.92	25.87	32.72
1941	13.92	12.82	35.56	57.27
1942	19.05	11.57	30.89	52.01
1943	17.68	11.34	30.89	36.62
1944	19.8	13.11	23.5	47.42
1945	17.56	12.07	32.31	39.49
1946	22.95	11.57	23.81	27.10
1947	22.69	12.40	24.77	37.43
England & Wales 1947	20.5 *	12.0 *		41.0 †

* Rates per 1,000 total population.

† Per 1,000 related births.

SECTION B.

PUBLIC HEALTH STAFF.

Details of the Public Health Staff are set out at the beginning of the report.

It will be noted that the staff comprises :—

Professional and Technical personnel	...	5
Clerical Administrative personnel	... ..	2

LABORATORY FACILITIES. These facilities remain unchanged. All pathological specimens together with samples for analysis are submitted to the County Pathologist or Public Analyst at County Hall, Maidstone.

These arrangements have proved satisfactory and adequate.

AMBULANCE FACILITIES. For general medical cases the following services are available :—

The Sevenoaks Urban District Council maintains an ambulance for the admission of patients to Sevenoaks Hospital, whilst the St. John Ambulance Brigade maintains vehicles for the admission of patients to the Hospitals in the Maidstone area.

The Council have an arrangement with the Medway Ambulance Service to deal with cases from the Parishes of Wouldham and Burham and the Blue Bell Hill area.

As regards cases of infectious disease the Council maintain an ambulance for the removal of patients to the Maidstone Borough Council Isolation Hospital at Barming.

I would add that in my opinion the ambulance facilities within the area are reasonably adequate.

NURSING IN THE HOME. The various village associations have continued to carry out their usual good work and there is every reason to believe that their efforts are greatly appreciated.

MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE. The Kent County Council is the administering authority for these services in this district.

CHILD LIFE PROTECTION. The administration of all functions in connection with this matter is carried out by the Kent County Council.

SCHOOL HEALTH SERVICES. These services for this district are under the administration of the Kent County Council.

NUTRITION AND FOOD. It is worthy of note that generally speaking the nutritional standard of children is today very good. The schemes for the distribution of Cod Liver Oil and Orange Juice

together with an ample allowance of milk, followed by provision of milk and dinner facilities when of school age are having a beneficial effect. Amongst older persons it is difficult to assess any effects of present day food standards, but there does not appear to be any undue cause for anxiety. That all find rationing irksome there is no doubt and that most favour a daily variety of their diet not at present possible is also well understood.

Unemployment is not a factor at present of any moment within the district.

PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS DISEASE.

The following table shows the number of cases in which bedding was steam disinfected and one or more rooms fumigated :

Scarlet Fever	8	Cerebro Spinal Fever	1
Diphtheria	5	Cancer	6
Poliomyelitis	6	Tuberculosis	5

In addition to the above, in 9 instances disinfection of rooms only took place, 4 being after Cancer and 5 after Tuberculosis.

MORTUARIES. Three mortuaries are maintained by the Council at Aylesford, Borough Green and West Malling. They are available for use at any time and the Police are provided with keys.

FOOD POISONING. No cases of food poisoning were notified during the year. This is fortunate as conditions generally today have been conducive to far more people taking a meal out either at a works canteen or restaurant, so that Health Authorities have just cause to be alert in this connection.

DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION.

Immunisation in this area is a general practitioner's service, children being immunised at Doctors' Surgeries, Schools and Infant Welfare Centres. It is interesting to note from the figures given in the table that, as the number of children immunised has increased, the number of notifications has diminished, showing that the scheme has proved its value both financially and, more important, in the better health of the children.

The following table shows the number immunised against diphtheria :—

Year	Number Immunised	No. of Cases of Diphtheria Notified
1938	—	60
1939	—	88
1940	—	5
1941	3,828	19
1942	422	50
1943	970	15
1944	491	5
1945	530	10
1946	492	7
1947	463	2

Total number of Children under 15 years of age immunised at 31/12/47	...	...	...	5,349
Number of Children immunised who have now reached age of 15 years and over	...	...	1,847	7,196
Estimated Child population at end of year	...	7,600		
Estimated percentage of Children immunised at end of 1947	...	...	...	71.7%
(This compares with the figure of 70% at end of 1946)				
Number of reinforcing doses given during 1947	...	886		

The following cases of notifiable diseases occurred during the year :—

Diseases	Total Notified	Admitted to Hospital	Number of Deaths
Measles	184	1	Nil
Whooping Cough	52	—	1
Scarlet Fever	11	4	Nil
Pneumonia	12	—	24
Erysipelas	2	—	Nil
Anterior Poliomyelitis	6	6	2
Diphtheria	2	—	Nil
Puerperal Pyrexia	2	—	Nil
Cerebro-Spinal Fever	1	1	Nil
Totals	272	12	27

In addition to the above cases admitted to hospital 5 suspected cases of diphtheria and 2 suspected cases of anterior poliomyelitis were admitted, but the diagnosis was not confirmed.

Table showing notifications and deaths from notifiable diseases and comparative totals for past 10 years.

YEAR	NOTIFICATIONS													DEATHS												
	Smallpox	Scarlet Fever	Diphtheria	Enteric Fever	Pneumonia	Puerperal Pyrexia	Erysipelas	Measles	Whooping Cough	Cerebro-Spinal Fever	Dysentery	Malaria	Acute Poliomyelitis	Ophthalmia Neonatorum	Smallpox	Scarlet Fever	Diphtheria	Enteric Fever	Pneumonia	Puerperal Pyrexia	Erysipelas	Whooping Cough	Measles	Cerebro-Spinal Fever	Acute Poliomyelitis	
1938	-	36	60	-	29	3	9			-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	22	-	-	-		-	-	-
1939	-	42	88	1	14	-	14			-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	20	-	-	-		-	-	-
1940	-	30	5	2	19	-	5	30	90	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	19	-	-			-	-	
1941	-	48	19	7	43	4	4	709	86	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	21	-	-	2	2		-	-
1942	-	85	50	-	38	6	6	435	192	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	12	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
1943	-	72	15	-	37	3	11	313	97	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	19	-	-	-	3	-	-	-
1944	-	38	5	-	26	2	7	6	72	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	14	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1945	-	47	10	-	25	1	6	520	64	3	60	7	-	-	-	-	1	-	13	-	-	2	1	1	-	-
1946	-	3	7	1	22	5	3	72	43	1	21	3	1	1	-	-	1	-	17	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
1947	-	11	2	-	12	2	2	184	52	1	-	-	6	-	-	-	-	-	24	-	-	1	-	-	-	2

The table noted below is inserted for comparison with the death and notification rates for England and Wales :—

	England & Wales (provisional)	Malling R.D.
Rates per 1,000 population (civilian).		
DEATHS—		
All causes	12.00*	12.40
Typhoid and Paratyphoid	0.00	0.00
Scarlet Fever	0.00	0.00
Whooping Cough	0.02	0.03
Diphtheria	0.01	0.00
Influenza	0.09	0.06
Smallpox	0.00	0.00
Measles	0.01	0.00
NOTIFICATIONS—		
Typhoid Fever	0.01	0.00
Paratyphoid Fever	0.01	0.00
Cerebro-Spinal Fever	0.05	0.03
Scarlet Fever	1.37	0.33
Whooping Cough	2.22	1.58
Diphtheria	0.13	0.06
Erysipelas	0.19	0.06
Smallpox	0.00	0.00
Measles	9.41	5.58
Pneumonia	0.79	0.36

*Rates per 1,000 total population.

TUBERCULOSIS.

The table set out below records in age groups the new cases recorded in the register during the year together with the number of deaths which occurred.

Age Periods (Years)	New Cases				Deaths			
	Respiratory		Non- Respiratory		Respiratory		Non- Respiratory	
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female
0— 1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
1— 5	...	2	1	...	...	...	...	...
5—15	...	...	3	6	...	...	...	...
15—25	4	8	...	1	2	1	...	...
25—35	9	4	1	1	2	1	...	...
35—45	3	2	...	...	3	2	...	...
45—55	2	2	...	...	2	2	...	...
55—65	3	...	...	...	2	...	...	...
65 upwards.	...	...	...	1	1	...	1	1
Totals	21	18	5	9	12	6	1	1

It is interesting to note that during the period 1938—47, the greatest number of deaths from respiratory tuberculosis occurred in the “15—25” age group, giving a percentage of 31.09 of the new cases notified during the 10 years.

Comparative Table showing trend of New Cases and Deaths from Tuberculosis :—

YEAR	New Cases				Deaths			
	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female
1938	3	13	5	5	10	4	1	-
1939	14	11	3	6	17	8	3	2
1940	13	10	2	2	16	17	2	4
1941	11	7	1	4	12	3	3	1
1942	12	24	10	6	16	10	3	-
1943	19	13	3	4	13	4	2	2
1944	22	19	4	6	23	6	2	3
1945	11	12	4	14	11	3	2	1
1946	17	17	5	8	9	7	1	3
1947	21	18	5	9	12	6	1	1

The number of yearly notifications of new cases has shown, so far as pulmonary tuberculosis is concerned, an increase above the general average level pre-war and the climax appears to have been reached in 1944. A similar trend is noted in the number of deaths. Whilst there is no great disparity between males and females in the numbers of new cases notified, the deaths of males greatly exceeds those of females for these pulmonary infections. This can perhaps be understood when the duties of the male are remembered as that of the bread winner of the family, and it emphasises the need not only for early diagnosis but also for the patient to be able to carry out the prescribed treatment of ample rest and freedom from fatigue.

PUBLIC HEALTH (PREVENTION OF TUBERCULOSIS) REGULATIONS 1925 AND SECTION 172 OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH ACT, 1936.

No action was taken under the above during the year.

SCABIES—

Comparatively few cases have occurred and adequate facilities are available for treatment.

SUPERVISION OF CONTACTS LANDING FROM SHIP OR AEROPLANE—

In this connection several reports were received of persons coming into the district from a ship from which a case of suspected infection had been landed. Such contacts were visited and given the necessary advice and kept under surveillance until possible incubation period had passed.

ANTERIOR POLIOMYELITIS—

With only 6 cases notified this district fortunately escaped any serious outbreak of this disease. Two Deaths were recorded during the year; both being males. The higher than normal incidence throughout the Country during the year resulted in much press publicity in connection with this disease, and whenever information was received from other districts of a possible contact coming to this district a visit was paid to the address and all necessary advice given.

The disease seems to be generally most apparent during the Summer months and one might pertinently wonder whether there is a stronger connection between the disease and the fruit season and flies than at present supposed, but the Ministry is of the opinion that in most cases infection is a respiratory one from case to case rather than due to infection from stools.

The table set out below shows the number of deaths from all causes during the year :—

R.G.'s list No	CAUSES OF DEATH	Number of Deaths		
		Male	Female	Total
1	Typhoid and Paratyphoid Fevers ... ..	...	...	...
2	Cerebro-Spinal Fever ... ..	...	...	...
3	Scarlet Fever ... ..	...	...	...
4	Whooping Cough	1	...	1
5	Diphtheria ... ..	...	...	...
6	Tuberculosis of the Respiratory System ...	12	6	18
7	Tuberculosis—other forms	1	1	2
8	Syphilitic Diseases	1	1	2
9	Influenza ... ..	...	2	2
10	Measles ... ..	...	...	...
11	Acute Poliomyelitis & Polio-encephalitis ...	2	...	2
12	Acute Infective Encephalitis ... ..	...	...	...
13	Cancer of buccal cavity : & Oesophagus (M) Uterus (F)	1	1	2
14	Cancer of Stomach & duodenum	3	4	7
15	Cancer of breast ... ..	...	6	6
16	Cancer of all other Sites	22	16	38
17	Diabetes	2	4	6
18	Intra-cranial Vascular Lesions	30	32	62
19	Heart Diseases	49	62	111
20	Other Diseases of the Circulatory System	10	7	17
21	Bronchitis	7	7	14
22	Pneumonia	17	7	24
23	Other Respiratory Diseases	2	1	3
24	Ulcer of Stomach or duodenum	2	1	3
25	Diarrhoea (under two years)	1	4	5
26	Appendicitis	1	1	2
27	Other digestive diseases	3	4	7
28	Nephritis	9	7	16
29	Puerperal & post abortive sepsis ... ..	...	...	...
30	Other maternal causes ... ..	...	1	1
31	Premature Birth	1	5	6
32	Congenital Malformation, Birth Injuries, etc.	3	3	6
33	Suicide	3	...	3
34	Road Traffic Accidents	7	2	9
35	Other Violent Causes	2	2	4
36	All Other Causes	23	7	30
All Causes		215	161	409

Percentage of total deaths under 1 year—6.8.

In conclusion may I say how much I appreciate the Council's continued support throughout the year.

I have the honour to be,

Your obedient Servant,

7th July, 1948.

N. HAY BOLTON,

Medical Officer of Health.

TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE MALLING RURAL
DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Mr. Chairman, Miss Ayre and Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in submitting my Second Annual Report in conjunction with that of the Medical Officer of Health upon the health of your district during 1947, as affecting those matters with which I am concerned. From a public health point of view I regret to report that no really important progress has taken place. Urgent schemes of sewerage and drainage continue to be delayed. The housing position remains acute and many families are forced to live under conditions which would not have been tolerated in past years. Apart from the overcrowding, lack of amenities, etc., the conditions are having a serious effect on the happiness and well being of the families concerned, and it may well be that these effects will be difficult to eradicate in the future.

SECTION C.

WATER. The major part of the area is served by the associate Mid and South Kent Water Companies. A small portion of the Parish of Aylesford is served by the Maidstone Water Company, and the Fairlawne Estate at Shipbourne is supplied by the private source of Fairlawne. During the year in all 124 houses were newly connected to mains supply making a total of 8,516 houses receiving a mains supply, which represents 92.1%.

SAMPLES. Eight samples of the mains supply were submitted for bacteriological examination, the samples being collected by an officer of this Department. In each instance the Pathologist was able to report the sample as being "a good water."

The following table sets out the particulars of the number of dwellings, together with those having a piped supply of water, and the estimated population in respect of the various parishes :—

Parish.	No. of Dwellings according to Rate Books- 31/12/47.	Population (Estimated)	No. of Houses having piped supply.
Addington ...	147	504	139 (94.5%)
Aylesford ...	1,161	4,250	960 (82.6%)
Birling ...	227	755	196 (86.3%)
Borough Green	437	1,556	437 (100.0%)
Burham ...	506	1,560	473 (93.5%)
Ditton ...	451	1,558	440 (97.5%)
Ightham ...	419	1,486	399 (95.0%)
Leybourne ...	144	719	133 (92.4%)
East Malling	822	2,980	804 (97.8%)
West Malling	563	2,066	544 (96.6%)
Mereworth ...	181	729	148 (81.8%)
Offham ...	186	688	169 (90.9%)
East Peckham	545	2,039	447 (82.0%)
West Peckham	89	325	36 (40.4%)
Platt ...	307	1,164	302 (98.3%)
Plaxtol ...	299	1,005	260 (86.9%)
Ryarsh ...	214	798	212 (99.0%)
Shipbourne ...	112	432	93 (83.0%)
Snodland ...	1,150	3,972	1,142 (99.3%)
Stansted ...	157	550	150 (95.5%)
Trottiscliffe ...	127	453	103 (81.1%)
Wateringbury	343	1,220	312 (91.0%)
Wouldham ...	242	752	239 (98.7%)
Wrotham ...	410	1,399	378 (92.2%)
TOTALS	9,239	32,960*	8,516 (92.1%)

*Registrar General's Estimate.

It is difficult to give the exact number of houses supplied by stand pipes, but I would say that the figure is approximately three per cent. of the total number of houses having a piped supply.

In addition chemical examinations were made and are summarised below :—

	Mid & South Kent Water Companies			Maidstone Water-works. Average of 20 Samples
	Average of 8 Samples	Maximum	Minimum	
	Parts per 100,000			
Free Ammonia	0.0022	0.005	0 0002	NIL
Albuminoid Ammonia	0.00094	0.002	0.0005	NIL
Oxygen absorbed at 27° in 15 min.	0.00125	0.003	NIL	0.0053
Oxygen absorbed at 27° in 4 hours	0.0056	0.013	NIL	0.0108
Total solids	22.95	27.9	18.2	26.4
Chlorine	1.72	1.80	1.60	1.98
Nitrogen as Nitrate	0.135	0.28	0.04	0.25
Nitrogen as Nitrite	—	A Trace	NIL	NIL
Temporary Hardness	10.79	12.7	8.9	17
Permanent Hardness	2.47	3.7	1.3	
Total Hardness	13.26	16.4	10.2	
Remarks:	Water bright and clean and normal in colour: of high organic purity: suitable for the Public Supply.			Bright and colourless: of high organic purity.

In addition, 4 samples of water from supplies other than mains were submitted for examination, in two instances the source being springs and in the other two shallow wells. 3 of the samples were reported by the bacteriologist as being satisfactory but of the 4th which was from a spring supplying the needs of 6 cottages the report stated “there is evidence of recent faecal contamination.” Following communication with the owner regarding this unsatisfactory source of supply he made suitable alternative arrangements pending acquisition of necessary pipe for connecting to the Company’s main, situate approximately ½ mile distant.

EXTENSION OF MAINS—

During the year 1,799 yards of 4” and 294 yards of 3” main were laid, the details of which are set out below :—

WATER COY.	SIZE.	YARDS.	LOCALITY AND PARISH.
Mid-Kent	4”	800	London Road to West Mallings Boundary—Ryarsh.
Mid-Kent	4”	915	Ryarsh Boundary to Ewell Housing Site, West Mallings.
Mid-Kent	3”	69	Ewell Housing Site, West Mallings.
Mid-Kent	4”	84	Borough Green Housing Site.
Mid-Kent	3”	225	Borough Green Housing Site.

During the year a complaint was received that the water supply to one particular house was intermittent and at very poor pressure. As a result of communication with the Water Company concerned they have undertaken to review the matter as and when suitable pipe for the alteration of the main is available.

With the long dry spells which occurred during the year it was inevitable that those premises which are dependant upon stored rain water for their domestic supply should be without an adequate supply. This difficulty is mainly one which affects the Kits Coty Estate and the adjacent parts of the Blue Bell Hill in the Parish of Aylesford.

In most instances requests for delivery of Water were met upon repayment of delivery costs with the assistance and co-operation of the Fire Service or otherwise by this Department : and in this connection 15 deliveries of water were carried out to 8 premises at Blue Bell Hill and 1 at Wrotham Hill.

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE.

During the year following exceptionally heavy storms, complaints of premises becoming flooded were received in respect of two cottages at London Road, Larkfield; one cottage at Malling Road, Leybourne and four cottages at Ryarsh Lane, West Malling, as well as flooding of the electrified railway lines at Aylesford Station. These matters were referred to the Highways Authority since the water appeared to come off road surfaces. In addition so far as Ryarsh Lane, West Malling, was concerned it was found that the Council's soil sewer became surcharged and contributed to the cause and necessary remedial steps were in course of being taken at the end of the year.

For some time the cesspools receiving the drainage from the 28 Council Cottages at Millfield, East Peckham, have required to be emptied at very short intervals and to overcome this difficulty the Council agreed in principle to the installation of a treatment plant. At the end of the year the plant had still not been delivered.

The several sewage pumping stations and outfall works have functioned satisfactorily during the year without any major breakdown, though the Aylesford pump has continued to be overworked and its task of keeping the effluent discharged from the sump to the Eccles Works is almost beyond its capacity.

In accordance with the request for Electricity to be used as far as possible during "off-peak load" hours, necessary arrangements were made for all electric pumps only to be worked during such times.

RAINFALL.

The details of the rainfall during the year for the table below have been kindly supplied by the Scientific Liaison Officer of the East Malling Research Station :—

Total amount of rain which fell during the year	...	23.47ins.
Number of days on which rain fell	... ..	135
Heaviest rainfall on any one day (on the 18th July)	...	1.52ins.
Longest Wet period 8 days, from December 13th to December 20th		(inclusive).
Longest Dry period 36 days, from August 2nd to September 6th		(inclusive).

RIVERS AND STREAMS.

Following a number of complaints of alleged pollution of the Mill Stream at East Malling, inspections were made when the matter was thoroughly investigated. As a result it did appear that certain pollution was taking place from a Cider Mill and additional to some effluent being discharged into the stream, a quantity of apples had also gained access thereto, particularly was this noticeable in a pond forming part of the stream. The attention of the management of the Factory was called to the matter and they expressed every desire to co-operate and prevent such nuisance. They further undertook to clean out the pond and stream of all these rotting apples. The stream has not yet recovered to its normal state and is still being kept under observation.

PUBLIC CLEANSING.

I am indebted to the Cleansing Officer (Mr. A. J. Weller) for supplying the following details of the work in connection with Public Cleansing.

The work of Public Cleansing has been maintained and actually increased, though a great many difficulties have had to be overcome with regard to obtaining labour and spares for vehicles, particularly tyres.

REFUSE COLLECTION.

The method of collection remains the same, ten parishes receiving a weekly collection and fourteen parishes a fortnightly collection. That the householder appreciates the service will be seen by the increase in the tonnage :—

1946—5,538½ tons was collected and in

1947—5,931 tons, an increase of 392½ tons.

The actual tonnage carried by the Council's vehicles was 8,817½ tons the difference 2,886 tons being made up as follows :—
1,759 tons of hardcore, clinker and soil for covering the refuse

and making good the roads to the several tips, and entrance roads to sewage works. 195 tons of sludge were removed from the various works, and 932½ tons of miscellaneous materials which varied from gift food delivery to furniture for squatters and the movement of salvaged materials.

REFUSE DISPOSAL.

The same two disposal sites are available, Coldharbour Lane, Aylesford, and the Brook-field at Ham Hill. The Aylesford site is an old disused quarry and the Brook-field is marsh land which is being raised above flood level. I am sure that a visit to the Brook-field site would be very enlightening and a surprise to many to see what a large space nearly 6,000 tons of refuse requires and how useful the recovery of this ground can be.

CESSPOOL EMPTYING.

Two new machines were delivered during 1947, one in March, to assist the original two which were unable to cope with the amount of work required of them, and one in November to deal with cesspools in those parishes which previously received no service. It is interesting to recall that the first of these new machines arrived soon after the thaw which seemed to fill cesspools almost as soon as they were emptied, so that even with the extra machine it took several weeks before pace could be kept with the requests for emptying.

The number of loads removed in 1946 was 6,862. In 1947 8,332 were removed, made up as follows :—

Cesspools 7,743; Flushing Sewers 485; Night Soil 104.
An increase over 1946 of 1,470 loads.

SALVAGE.

The collection of salvage has been very well maintained although the trailers have had to be dispensed with owing to non-compliance with Road Traffic Act. Certain rearrangements have had to be made with the vehicles but there have been no complaints or trouble that could not be remedied. During the year the following salvage was collected :—

125 tons of paper.	12 cwt. of bones.
9 tons of rags and woollens.	1 ton of bottles and jars.
16 tons of ferrous metal.	

A total of 152 tons which was sorted and sold, £1,021 2s. 5d., being received. Comparative figures for 1946 :—

241 tons—£1,078 being received.

Although there has been a drop in the amount of salvage the waste paper collection has increased. In 1946, 113 tons produced £725; and in 1947, 125 tons produced £810. A good deal of waste paper is still found amongst the refuse and it is difficult to get some householders to keep it separate.

GARAGES AND MAINTENANCE.

The garages at Bell Lane, Ditton are still in use housing six vehicles; one Cesspool Emptier is garaged at Borough Green and three at East Malling Upper Mill. Two of the machines are in the old garage and one in a new building, constructed for the first of the two new Emptiers. One lorry is still without garage accommodation. The mileage travelled by the refuse vehicles was 59,092 and by the Emptiers 33,373 making a total of 92,465. The question of maintenance has been a very trying one, spare parts and tyres particularly were at times unobtainable. During the summer the position with tyres was so acute that at one time it was almost necessary to take a vehicle off the road to keep the remainder running. By the end of the year, however, the tyre trouble ended. The position with other spares has not improved and 1 instance the case of a Revell pump ordered in March which has still not been delivered. With the delivery of the fourth Emptier a fitter-driver was engaged. He has proved to be an asset to the Council for he is always in demand and is very capable of dealing with any job that we have the tools and equipment for. It is hoped that when the new garage is built a small workshop may be attached to it.

SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA.

During the year, 3,986 inspections were carried out in connection with the work of the Department and the following detailed statement shows nuisances and defects remedied :—

Overcrowding	...	...	12	Dampness remedied in	
Hop Pickers' Camps	...	...	61	Dwellings	...
Sanitary Accommodation—				Roofs and Rain Water Pipes	41
1. Where insufficient	...	...	40	repaired	...
2. Where defective	...	...	87	Floors re-laid where rough	276
Drainage—				and faulty	...
1. Reconstructed	...	...	35	Walls and Ceilings repaired	51
2. Repaired	...	...	43	Windows and Ventilation	371
3. Cleansed	...	...	62	altered to comply with	
Cesspools—				requirements	6
1. Repaired	...	...	15	Baths, Lavatory Basins,	
Offensive Accumulations				Sinks and Sanitary Fit-	
removed	...	...	4	ments repaired or provided	
Refuse receptacles provided				where absent	28
or renewed	...	...	149	Water Supplies—	
Tents, Vans and Sheds,				(a) New supplies provided	16
infringements rectified	...	...	10	(b) Precautions for pre-	
Smoke Nuisances abated	...	...	1	venting contamin-	
Yard Paving made good	...	...	60	ation of existing	
Keeping of Animals	...	...	7	supplies	1
				Miscellaneous defects	
				remedied	...
					140

FACTORIES ACT, 1937

During the year, inspections were carried out under Section 34 as to means of escape from fire in factories employing more than 20 persons. These inspections necessitated a great deal of work and I would like to express my keen appreciation for the assistance received from the National Fire Service in this connection.

The following table shows the number of inspections of factories carried out and the details of defects found :—

1. Inspections :

Premises	Number on Register	Number of		
		Inspections	Written Notices	Owners Prosecuted
(1) Factories in which Sections 1,2,3,4, and 6 are to be enforced by local Authorities :	17	5	4	—
(2) Factories not included in (1) in which Section 7 is enforced by the local authority.	102	58	26	—
Total	119	63	30	—

2. Cases in which Defects were found :

Particulars	Number of cases in which defects found				Number of cases in which prosecutions instituted
	Found	Rem- edied	Referred		
			To HM In- spectors	By HM In- spectors	
Want of cleanliness (S.1.) ...	7	7	—	2	—
Overcrowding (S.2.) ...	—	—	—	—	—
Unreasonable Temperature (S.3.)	—	—	—	—	—
Inadequate Ventilation (S.4.) ...	—	—	—	—	—
Ineffective Drainage of Floors (S.6.)	—	—	—	—	—
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7.) ...	—	—	—	—	—
(a) insufficient ...	10	9	—	2	—
(b) Unsuitable or defective ...	4	3	—	1	—
(c) not separate for sexes.	3	3	—	1	—
Other offences (not including offences relating to Home Work).	—	—	—	—	—
Total	24	22	—	6	—

SHOPS ACTS.

Inspections under the above were carried out whenever time allowed. On the whole the Acts and regulations as to shops are complied with and no undue difficulties arose during the year. Minor infringements only were noted. I would point out that in an area so large it is almost impossible to carry out routine visits at regular intervals.

SMOKE ABATEMENT.

It was necessary during the year to draw the attention of the Management of one of the brickworks in the district to the emission of excessive quantities of smoke from their chimney shaft. The Management promised every endeavour to mitigate the nuisance, and I am pleased to report that there has been a definite improvement. A factor largely contributing to the nuisance was the type of fuel which was being supplied.

CEMENT DUST.

During the year complaints were received concerning nuisance from dust and grit emission in excessive quantities from a cement works within the district. Full investigation was carried out and several visits made to the factory including a combined visit in co-operation with the area Alkali Inspector of the Ministry of Health. I would add that the Management expressed their concern at the fact that there was cause for complaint and gave every assurance that no effort would be spared to minimise the trouble. Every facility was given for the examination of the various processes during these inspections. Two main factors could be attributed to causing the nuisance and of these the chief one is the fact that the need for cement today necessitates the plant being worked at a limit far in excess of its intended capacity. In conjunction with this, the fuel supplied to the firm was generally of a poor type—some of it containing up to 30% ash. The firm has placed orders for provision of dust extractors, fuel pulverisation plant and precipitators but with the general seriously delayed supply position there is no knowledge as to how soon we can expect these fitments to be installed and until they are, further trouble will no doubt arise from time to time.

SWIMMING BATHS AND POOLS.

There are two privately-owned swimming pools in the district to which the public may gain admission. The pools are under constant supervision from this office. They are well maintained and every care is taken against possible contamination. During the year a sample of the water which is treated was collected from each and the results of the tests were satisfactory.

There are in the district several pools of water in former quarries and sand pits and a sample was taken from one of these which was known to be frequented by bathers during hot weather. The Pathologist reported regarding this sample that "there is no evidence of recent faecal contamination."

ERADICATION OF THE BED BUG.

12 complaints were received during the year from tenants, of premises being infested with bugs. Nine of these houses were treated with a liquid insecticide containing a residual D.D.T. preparation and the other 3 with D.D.T. smoke generators. Both types of treatment have proved of value in the particular instances where used but the value of D.D.T. generators appears to be limited to newer properties where the loss of concentration of the smoke is at a minimum. In the case of three houses the initial treatment did not prove sufficient and further spraying was carried out.

COCKROACHES.

Following complaint of a tenant of a house that the premises were infested with cockroaches, fumigation was carried out with D.D.T. smoke generators and proved to be effective.

FLIES.

During the year, 6 complaints were received regarding undue swarming of flies within the house and in each instance the premises were sprayed with an insecticide containing a residual D.D.T. preparation. This spraying proved successful as evidenced by the numbers of dead flies later cleared up and there were no reports of further trouble at the premises treated. This trouble appears to have affected chiefly the lofts of the houses concerned and the property was of the newer type, where undoubtedly warmer conditions prevail. No evidence of fly-breeding could be observed in the immediate vicinity of the treated houses.

RATS AND MICE (DESTRUCTION) ACT, 1919.

During the year as a result of complaints received and also following routine surveys a considerable amount of baiting for rats and mice has taken place. The work was carried out in the manner prescribed by the Ministry to ensure eligibility for the financial grant and successful results have been obtained. The operator reports greater difficulty in freeing buildings from mice than rats where the more orderly habits of the latter animal pest greatly facilitate its extermination. The sewers in the district received due treatment, consequent upon results of test baiting carried out at the end of 1946. The parish of Snodland records the majority of infestations both surface and sewer found and treated and due cognizance of this fact has been taken and the energies of the operator will be intensified in this direction.

Although the operator is mainly engaged on duties concerning destruction of rats and mice he also carried out, under supervision, work in connection with disinfestation of premises for other vermin, e.g., bugs, fleas, flies, cockroaches, etc.

SECTION D

HOUSING.

That repairs to houses are still far behind the necessity is a fact evidenced by the continuous receipt of complaints in this office from persons who, after fruitless efforts to have their repairs carried out, turn for help to the Local Authority in their endeavour to have their accommodation brought to a reasonable standard. The total number of complaints received during the year was 444 and of these 298 (67%) related to housing defects. The arrears of maintenance during the war years has, of course, now multiplied so that what was then only a minor defect has now reached major proportions in many instances. Coupled with this the steadily ever rising cost of building repairs is having a serious deterrent effect upon landlords. Rent levels in the district would appear to be low and from the records of 1,529 houses inspected under the Rural Housing Survey it is observed that 1,265 (83%) have rents up to 10/5 per week. In order to reduce requests for repairs to essential work in the present day circumstances of material shortages, and because therefore it would not be possible to state that the premises would in **all** respects be fit for human habitation as well as the fact that the cost of the repairs could not be justified as reasonable, remedial action upon landlords has been taken under the Public Health Act, 1936, in preference to Section 11 of the Housing Act, 1936. This is a position in which your Officers are not entirely at ease of mind.

At times of inspection it is becoming increasingly evident that, apart from defective roof which must be classed as essential repair work, there is a considerable amount of property in the district wherein the woodwork of doors and windows has become decayed through lack of protective painting at reasonable intervals. Landlords should realise that the folly of this practice at times entails large items of expense which would otherwise be avoided. It is also true to say that much of the internal wall and ceiling plaster of many houses is in a poor state. No doubt much of this was shaken up during the war years but a great deal is perished with age and now beyond its useful span of life.

In these difficult times there is no doubt much in the way of minor repairs that could satisfactorily be carried out by tenants for their own personal comfort, but the tenant who does this is an exception.

Whilst on the subject of housing, comment may be made of the difficulty which tenants experience in understanding that action is not automatically taken in respect of defects observed following the inspections which are carried out for the purpose of the Rural Housing Survey.

At the end of the year the Council had 2 hutted camps in use, providing accommodation for 42 families. These were kept fully occupied and their usefulness and appreciation can be judged by the numerous applicants for even such accommodation. The nissen type huts are a constant source of worry in order to keep them weathertight—many of the outer cladding corrugated sheets being now very badly rusted, but every effort is made to keep the standard as reasonable as possible.

Number of New Dwellings erected during the year :—

(a)	By the Local Authority (Permanent)	...	22
(b)	By the Ministry of Works and administered by the Local Authority. (Pre-fabricated houses)	... ..	14
(c)	By others	... ..	56.

RURAL HOUSING SURVEY.

Work in connection with the Rural Housing Survey has progressed satisfactorily during the year. From the end of August to the end of the year the Survey had to be interrupted by reason of the fact that information relating to Anderson and Morrison Shelters which were due for collection necessitated a visit to each of the premises where these were on loan and the services of the Housing Inspector had to be utilised for this purpose. A total of 1,602 houses have now been inspected and recorded, the details of which are set out below :—

Category.			% to total surveyed.
1.	Satisfactory in all respects	... 37	2.3
2.	Minor Defects	... .. 1,259	78.6
3.	Requiring repair, structural alteration or improvement	... 185	11.5
4.	Appropriate for reconditioning	Nil	Nil
5.	Unfit for habitation and beyond repair at reasonable expense	121	7.6

NOTE.—The figure relating to Category 2 is variable, since complaints are frequently received concerning these properties, and action is then pursued to have the defects remedied. It is also realised that Category 4 may require revision should legislation implement any of the recommendations of the Hobhouse Report.

No. of Houses Inspected	Sink	Washing Accommodation	Bath	Cooking facilities				Food Storage		Water Supply			Drainage			Closet Accommodation				
				* Ranges	Electricity	Gas	Oil	Vent.	Unvent.	Main	Well	Piped Indoors	Sewer	Cesspool	None	W.C. Indoors	W.C. Outdoors	Pail Closet	Outdoors	Privy Midden	Chemical Closet
1602	1519	1530	37	1513	29	51	9	124	1478	1602	—	1478	1398	189	15	5	1512	82	—	1

*It should be noted that approximately 65% of this number have other means of cooking either by electricity or gas in addition to ranges.

The Survey "Target" is 6,000 houses so that the end of the year, total represents 26.7% of the target. Unfortunately the summary given above cannot be accepted as representative of the final position because the number of premises shown to be connected to the sewerage system and enjoying the elementary convenience of a water-closet is a high proportion of the total inspected and local knowledge indicates that this is not so throughout the district. However, what is significant is the fact that despite 87% of the premises being connected to a sewer, only 37 (2.3%) enjoy the amenity of a bath fitment. Also that in 92.25% of the premises the food store is unsatisfactory; a most disturbing factor.

OVERCROWDING.

The amount of statutory overcrowding within the meaning of the Housing Act, 1936, is probably not very great, though no accurate data is available at present. It is interesting to note that the average number of persons per house is 3.56, which compares with 3.36 in 1939—a negligible increase. However, it is known that many of the houses in the district are today being occupied by more than one family unit. In the majority of cases the additional occupants derive from the marriage of grown-up sons and/or daughters and their resulting families, and is occasioned by their inability to find housing accommodation on their own account. With all the good-will possible these arrangements frequently fail, and friction ensues. Being relatives, money matters are hardly the cause but one can sympathise with these people living under what is little more than make-shift conditions in premises so constructed that they were never intended for anything but one family unit. Unfortunately this problem will be a harrassing one until the return of conditions that will allow of unrestricted building of homes for all. Whilst the Council are appreciative of the position their capabilities of helping these people are limited. There is also a further obstacle in the form of the ever-increasing rents which are inevitable with the rise of building costs and the inability of some applicants to meet these charges.

SECTION E.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

(a) MILK SUPPLY.

Number of registered Dairies and Cowsheds ...	80
256 inspections of cowsheds and dairies were carried out during the year.	

No case of infectious or other disease attributed to milk was brought to my notice during the year.

No samples of non-designated milk were submitted for tubercle bacilli examination.

Number of Producers	...	...	...	...	76
Number of Retail Purveyors	...	...	...	...	35
Number of Wholesale Purveyors	...	...	...	...	61

MILK (SPECIAL DESIGNATIONS) ORDERS 1936—1938.

Number of Farms licensed to produce—

(i) Accredited	...	...	...	...	...	16
(ii) Tuberculin Tested	...	...	...	...	...	11

This represents 35.5% of the total number of producers in the district.

MILK SAMPLING.

	Number of Samples Taken.	Number of Unsatisfactory Samples
Accredited	22	8
Tuberculin Tested ...	17	4
Non-Designated ...	—	—
Pasteurised	—	—
(a) Methylene Blue Test	—	—
(b) Phosphatase Test ...	—	—

PASTEURISATION.

Number of Pasteurising Plants—Nil.

MILK IN SCHOOLS.

The milk supplied to schools and in fact to all children should be of no less standard than Tuberculin Tested, and until such time as this can be readily available in sufficient quantities the safeguard of Pasteurisation should be adopted.

It was necessary during the year to draw the attention of a dairyman to the standard of cleanliness of his bottles in which milk was supplied to a local school. Such action resulted in a satisfactory improvement.

(b) MEAT AND OTHER FOODS.

The following food was condemned as unfit for human consumption during the year :—

533 lbs. of Beef.	2 tins of Stewed Steak.
267 lbs. of Mutton.	1 tin of Lamb Tongue.
144 lbs. of Pork.	1 tin of Sausage.
74 lbs. of Veal.	1 lb. of Luncheon Meat.
3 Beasts Heads (20 lbs.).	19 st. of Herrings.
3 Beasts plucks (24½ lbs.).	14 st. of Pilchards
1 tin of “Brunch” Chopped Pork.	6 st. of Catfish
20 lbs. of Liver Sausage.	6 st. Bream Fillet.
6 lbs. of Ox Tongues.	2 st. of Silver Hake.
2 tins of Australian Bacon.	1 st. of Mackerel.
1 carcase of Pig (4-5 score).	1 st. of Kippers.
6 lbs. of Corned Beef.	1 st. of Sardines.
1 tin of Meat Lunch.	{ 5 st. of Fresh Haddock.
1 tin of Ham Loaf.	
1 tin of Minced Beef Loaf.	2 st. of Dried Haddock.
	63 st. of Cod Fillet.

6 st. of Dried Coley Fillet.	10 tins of Carrots.
5 st. of Dab Fish.	1 cwt. of Potatoes.
113 lbs. of Lobsters.	6 tins of Potatoes.
65 lbs. of Crabs.	15 lbs. of Tea.
1 tin of Rock Cod.	4 lbs. of Sugar.
2 tins of Herrings	18 ozs. of Sweet Pickle.
42 tins of Whiting.	2 jars. of Piccalilli.
4 tins of Salmon (Grade 1)	1 jar of Potted Meat.
6 tins of Salmon (Grade 2)	1 tin of Apricots.
2 tins of Salmon (Grade 3)	14 tins of Baked Beans.
10 tins of Full Cream Milk.	2 tins of Beetroot.
185 tins of Evaporated Milk.	1 tin of Irish Stew.
37 lbs. of Cheese.	5 tins of Vegetable Soup.
5 pkts. Dried Whole Eggs.	2 tins of Tomato Soup.
1 lb. of Sultanas.	4 tins of Meat Soup.
3 lbs. of Flour.	2 tins of Macedoine.
1 lb. of Dates.	1 tin of Meat and Vegetable Ration.
75 lbs. of Emergency Ration Biscuits.	1 tin of Green Pea Soup.
1 lb. of Plum Jam.	1 tin of Potato Soup
10 lbs. of Marmalade.	2 tins of Italian Peeled Tomatoes.
2 tins of Peaches.	2 tins of Grapefruit.
2 lbs. of Golden Syrup.	215 loaves of Bread (1 $\frac{3}{4}$ lbs.).
79 lbs. of Butter.	1 tin of Orange Juice.
19 lbs. of Margarine.	1 tin of Pears.
15 tins of Plums	2 tins of Spinach.
1 tin of Sliced Peaches.	4 pkts. of Cake Mixture.
23 tins of Peas.	15 pkts. of Shredded Wheat.
1 tin of Gherkins.	

The Chief Inspector of the Kent County Council (Mr. S. Strugnell) has kindly furnished the following details of samples submitted during the year :—

Article.	Number of Samples.	Article.	Number of Samples.
Batter Flour	1	Lemon Hart Rum	1
Becona	1	Lentils	1
Butter	1	Maclean's Stomach Tablets ...	1
Cake Flour	1	Margarine	1
Carter's Little Liver Pills ...	1	Milk	33
Cocoa	1	Oatmeal	1
Cold and Influenza Mixture ...	1	Rapid Cold Cure Tablets ...	1
Coffee and Chicory Mixture ...	1	Rolled Oats	1
Cooking Fat	1	Semolina	1
Creamola Foam Crystals ...	1	Table Jelly	1
Currants	1	Vinegar, Malt	1
Extract of Meat and Malt Wine	1	Whisky	1
Glycerine and Lemon Ipecacuanha Mixture	1		
Gin	1		59
Ginger Beer	1		

All samples genuine with the exception of the following :—

Milk. Contained 21.7% added water.	Prosecution. Milk Retailers fined £5 and £2 2 0 costs.
------------------------------------	--

Milk. 6.6% deficient in fat.	} The fat deficiencies in these samples were due to unequal mixing of the milk of the cows. This was rectified and samples taken at a later date were genuine.
Milk. 18.3% deficient in fat.	

HOP AND FRUIT PICKERS' CAMPS.

The season was a comparatively short one. Inspections were carried out as in previous years and apart from minor infringements of the byelaws I am pleased to record that the pickers on the whole were adequately housed. The general standard of accommodation is good and in the majority of cases the owners are only too anxious to make the pickers as comfortable as possible. In two cases accommodation is poor and efforts are being made to bring these huts up to a reasonable standard of fitness in time for next season.

CAMPING SITES (P.H.A. 1936—SECTION 269).

Number of applications received during the year	2
Number of Licences granted during the year ...	1
Number of licensed sites within the district ...	2

These sites are licensed for special reasons and not sites within the meaning of the Act.

HARVEST CAMPS.

The district has one Harvest Camp in its area at Wrotham Hill and the same appears to be well used seasonally. Such assistance as the Warden may have required within the services of the Department has been readily granted during the year.

In conclusion, may I say how very much I appreciate the support and consideration extended to me throughout the year. I would also like to express my thanks to all members of the staff for their assistance at all times.

I am,

Miss Ayre and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

G. F. J. HOPKINS,
Senior Sanitary Inspector.

7th July, 1948.

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